



1745  
1745  
PATENT  
Serial No. 09/232,498  
Docket No. 10517/16

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of : Seiji Mizuno  
Serial No. : 09/232,498  
Filed : January 15, 1999  
Group Art Unit : 1745  
Examiner : Mark Ruthkosky  
For : SEPARATOR FOR FUEL CELL AND  
MANUFACTURING METHOD FOR THE SAME

RECEIVED  
MAR 21 2003  
TC 1700

1745  
1745

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. The paragraphs marked below are applicable.

1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date or the date of filing a CPA, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.

2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). No certification or fee is required.

3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.

a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign

patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).

b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

c. Please debit Deposit Account No. 11-0600 in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p) to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. Two duplicate copies of this paper are attached.

4. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Please debit Deposit Account No. 11-0600 in the amount of \$130.00 in payment of the petition fee under 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1) to ensure consideration of the disclosed information. Two duplicate copies of this paper are attached.

a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).

b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

5. Relevance of the non-English language reference(s) is discussed in the present specification.

6. The reference(s) was/were cited in a counterpart foreign application. An English language version of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information.

7. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language reference(s) appears in the Appendix attached hereto.

8. The Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed, which is directed to related technical subject matter. The identification of this U.S. Patent Application is not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to that application now or upon issuance of the present application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited application and the art cited therein during examination of the present application.

9. This application is one of a series of related applications, identified in the attached Appendix, which are directed to related technical subject matter. The identification of those U.S. Patent Applications is not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to those applications now or upon issuance of the present application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited applications and the art cited therein during the examination.

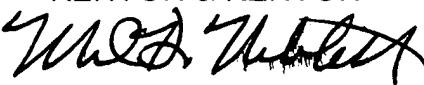
10. The reference(s) was/were cited by or submitted to the Office in parent application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120. Thus, copies of these references are not attached. 37 CFR §1.98(d).

11. An English-language Abstract of a non-English language reference previously filed in the present application is attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

Date: March 17, 2003



Mark H. Neblett

Registration No. 42,028

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		Complete if Known	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>		Application Number	09/232,498
(use as many sheets as necessary)		Filing Date	January 15, 1999
		First Named Inventor	Seiji Mizuno
		Group Art Unit	1745
		Examiner Name	Mark Ruthkosky
Sheet	1	of	1
		Attorney Docket Number	10517/16

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04.

<sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

**Burden Hour Statement:** This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

*(use as many sheets as necessary)*

Sheet

1

of 1

***Complete if Known***

Application Number	09/232,498
Filing Date	January 15, 1999
First Named Inventor	Seiji Mizuno
Group Art Unit	1745
Examiner Name	Mark Ruthkosky
Attorney Docket Number	10517/16

## OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

RECEIVED

MAR 21 2003  
TC 1700

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

**Burden Hour Statement:** This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.